

NEW SOUTH WALES.

BUSINESS STATISTICS - MAY, 1943.

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PART I. PRIMARY & EXPORT INDUSTRIES.GENERAL.

Seasonal Conditions: Good rains have fallen over nearly all of N.S.W. Dry conditions exist only in parts of the Western Division. The outlook for agricultural and pastoral production is much improved. In dairying districts conditions are very favourable but an immediate rise in milk output is not expected.

Meat: From June 14, 1943 the Commonwealth Government will acquire all pig carcasses 100-180 lb. chilled weight on hooks and all choppers from registered slaughtering establishments. Purchase will be made until June 1945. A particular feature is the extension of the weight limit to 180 lb. to encourage the production of baconer weights. Prices to be paid by the Government are:- Baconers, 1st quality 8d. per lb., 2nd quality 7½d. per lb. and 3rd quality 6½d. per lb., excessively over fat 6d. per lb. Choppers, 5d. per lb. for all weights. All these prices are on the basis in store at normal points of export.

The arrangement in force in the County of Cumberland for diverting beef supplies to canneries has been extended to the Newcastle district.

WHEAT.

A second advance is being paid to producers of wheat in 1941/42 (No. 5) Pool. The advance of 3d. per bus. plus the earlier advance makes 3/3 per bus. bagged and 3/1 bulk. On the crop of 153m. bus. the advances so far total £23.8m.

Unsold stocks in Australia, in all wheat pools on May 1st were estimated by the chairman of the Australian Wheat Board at 207m. bus. including 75m. bus. in No. 5 Pool and 132m. bus. in the 1942/43 Pool. There is still a large quantity of wheat at country stations, viz. 124m. bus. Losses due to weevils since the inception of the Board have amounted to only a fraction of a penny on the total quantity handled, namely 555½m. bus.

The price of sacks has risen sharply in Calcutta but the season's needs were obtained by the Aust. Wheat Board before the rise took place.

DAIRY INDUSTRIES.

Butter produced in N.S.W. factories in April, 1943 was 6.1m. lb. compared with 8.6m. lb. last year and an average of 10.9m. lb. from 1934-35 to 1936-37.

Houscholders' milk supplies in Sydney are rationed.

BUTTER PRODUCED - N.S.W. FACTORIES.

'000,000 lb.

Year	Whole Year	Ten Months July - Apr.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
1939/40	112.0	99.7	10.2	13.5	13.8	12.6	10.6	9.6	9.2
1940/41	103.7	91.7	8.0	8.2	11.4	14.5	12.8	11.7	8.7
1941/42	85.1	72.9	7.5	7.9	8.6	6.7	8.3	10.1	8.6
1942/43	-	85.3	7.5	11.3	12.0	13.0	10.2	8.6	6.1

Pay to suppliers of cream to certain North Coast factories was 1/2½ lb. in April, 1943 (incl. subsidy - 5/7d. per lb.). The amount of the additional subsidy to be paid will be announced soon.

N.S.W. BUTTER - PAY TO CREAM SUPPLIERSBy certain North Coast Factories.Pence per lb. of commercial butter made.

Year	Deferred Pay x		Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
	July-Dec.	Jan.-June						
1934/35	$\frac{5}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$9\frac{1}{4}$	9	$8\frac{1}{2}$	$9\frac{1}{4}$
1938/39	$5\frac{1}{16}$	1.06	$11\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{4}$	$12\frac{1}{4}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{4}$
1940/41	$\frac{3}{4}$	1	$12\frac{3}{4}$	$12\frac{3}{4}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{3}{8}$	$12\frac{3}{4}$	$12\frac{7}{8}$
1941/42	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$12\frac{5}{8}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{4}$	$12\frac{1}{4}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$
1942/43	$17\frac{1}{16}(a)$	-	$13\frac{1}{4}(a)$	$13\frac{1}{4}(a)$	14(b)	14(b)	14(b)	$14\frac{1}{2}(b)$

x Add to monthly pay.

(a) Exclusive of subsidy payable in 1942/43.

(b) Includes $5\frac{1}{7}$ d. per lb. subsidy.

Quotas of butter and cheese for local consumption in June, 1943 were very high. In order to reduce the home demand for butter and make available a greater quantity for export, civilians have been rationed. The allowance of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per head per week for domestic consumption compares with an average annual consumption in Australia of about 33 or 34 lb. per head.

Until June 30th, 1943 catering establishments and sandwich shops can obtain 65% of the quantity of butter obtained from their usual suppliers in the corresponding period of May. Hospitals, industrial users etc. may obtain 80%. After June 30th, the above classes of users will purchase butter under a permit system.

As the local price of butter is above the export price, the diversion of butter to export markets through restriction of home consumption will have the effect of reducing the average realisation per pound of butter. This fact has been taken into account by the Government in determining the amount of subsidy to be provided.

QUOTAS OF BUTTER & CHEESE FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION.N.S.W., VIC., Q'LD. & T.A.S.

Month	B U T T E R.				C H E E S E. ϕ			
	1934/35x	1940/41	1941/42	1942/43	1934/35	1940/41	1941/42	1942/43
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
July	50	73	64	84	75	51	61	68
Sept.	50	54	51	53	75	39	36	43
Dec.	24	39	38	38	38	31	29	31
Mar.	32	44	47	58	58	50	42	61
April	43	53	56	68	61	58	44	86
May	47	57	70	86	61	63	68	88
June	68	71	85	$87\frac{1}{2}$	78	70	63	96

x Year of record production in Australia.

 ϕ Applies to S. Aust. also.

PART II. FINANCE AND COMMERCE.

The Tasmanian Government, faced with a possible deficit, has approached the Grants Commission for reconsideration of the 1941/42 grant to the State.

The cost of raising War loans in Australia is about 5/- per cent. In Canada the cost is much higher but the number of subscribers to the last loan there was about 1 in 5 of the population. Nine war loans raised in Australia have raised £407 m. 1940 £67 m.; 1941 £69.9 m; 1942 £168.3m. and 1943 (first loan) £101.8 m.

Only half of the voluntary war damage insurance policies taken out last year have been renewed.

BANK CLEARINGS.

The amount of bank clearings in Sydney in the three months ended April, 1943 reached exceptionally high figures. The index of clearings rose to 150 (1926-30=100) compared with 131, average in 1942, and 100, average in 1939.

INTER BANK CLEARINGS - SYDNEY.Excl. Treasury Bill Transactions.

Year.	AMOUNT.		INDEX NUMBERS (Base: Av. corresp. period 1926-30 = 100).	
	April.	Ten Months ended April	Three Months ended April.	Calendar Year.
	£m.	£m.	Index	Index
1939	70.7	694	98	100
1940	84.3	821	111	113
1941	86.9	895	111	120
1942	95.4	974	125	131
1943	125.3	1,107	150	-

SHARE PRICES.

The rapid upward trend of share prices has tapered off in the last few months as control measures gradually have come into effect. The index of prices of 75 companies' shares rose one point in April, 1943 but there was no change in the index for 34 active shares. There were increases in prices of public utilities and insurance companies' shares.

The Sydney Stock Exchange Research Bureau's Index of industrial share prices was 131.64 on 1st May and 132.01 on 31st.

INDEX OF SHARE PRICES - SYDNEY.

Prices of ordinary shares - excl. banks, Par Value = 100.

(Compiled by N.S.W. Govt. Statistician).

Average for Month	Manufacturing & Distributing	Retail	Public Utilities	Pastoral & Finance	Insurance	Total 75 Companies	34 active Shares
1937 - Mar.	214	204	181	169	281	190(a)	201
1941 - Sept.	228	177	142	128	253	175	191
- Dec.	204	160	138	118	241	161	171
1942 - Jan.	199	154	136	116	236	157	166
- Mar.	173	138	121	110	214	141	147
- Apr.	176	139	118	112	212	141	150
- Dec.	227	171	133	132	249	173	189
1943 - Feb.	232	179	137	134	251	177	195
- Mar.	234	180	138	133	251	178	196
- Apr.	234	180	141	133	254	179	196

(a) Highest point recorded.

WHOLESALE TRADE.

Sales at wholesale in N.S.W. in March, 1943 were for about the same amount as in March, 1942. Sales of taxable goods were lower but sales of exempt goods (which include Government purchases) were higher. The variations in total sales in recent months have been almost wholly due to fluctuations in the sales of exempt goods.

WHOLESALE TRADE, N.S.W.

Sales by traders registered under Sales Tax Acts.

Total, taxable and exempt goods.

1938/39. 1939/40. 1940/41. 1941/42. 1942/43.

Sales - £ million.

<u>Year.</u>	192.3	204.3	215.3	235.2	-
<u>Nine months ended March</u>	144.1	154.5	155.8	176.4	180.4
<u>Month - Nov.</u>	16.9	17.5	18.1	20.6	19.5
Dec.	17.0	18.3	17.0	20.3	21.0
Jan.	13.2	16.3	15.8	18.7	17.2
Feb.	16.5	14.6	17.5	19.4	21.6
Mar.	15.8	17.0	17.4	19.5	19.4

RETAIL TRADE.

Net value of sales in 24 large Sydney stores in March, 1943 was 14.1% below March, 1942. Reduced sales were reported in nearly all sections. It was in March, 1942 that a buying wave began and it soon became necessary to control sales.

A mild rush for clothing supplies began this year as the date for surrender of old ration books, June 6th, came nearer.

Stocks of reporting Sydney retailers were valued in March, 1943, 2.4% below March, 1942.

RETAIL TRADE - SYDNEY.

(Experience of 24 Sydney Stores.)

Percentage increase from corresponding period of the previous year.

<u>Period.</u>	<u>Net Value of Sales.</u>	<u>Value of Stock.</u>	<u>Wages & Salaries. Paid.</u>	<u>Number of Employees.</u>
1939	+ 2.4	+ 2.0	+ 2.6	+ 0.9
1940	+ 6.3	+17.0	+ 4.0	+ 1.9
1941	+ 14.6	+ 8.0	+ 9.0	+ 4.0
1942	(-) 5.3	+ 9.2	(-)5.1	(-)8.4
<u>March Quarter:-</u>				
1941	+ 10.9	+ 3.7	+ 4.3	+ 2.1
1942	+ 11.5	+17.0	+ 5.7	+ 1.9
1943	(-)18.8	+ 1.9	(-)13.9	(-)20.8
<u>Month:-</u>				
1942 - Nov.	(-)16.3	(-)1.2	(-)14.4	(-)18.9
- Dec.	(-)23.1	+ 1.5	(-)18.7	(-)24.5
1943 - Jan.	(-)15.3	+ 6.0	(-)14.7	(-)19.8
- Feb.	(-)27.5	+ 2.2	(-)17.9	(-)23.0
Mar.	(-)14.1	(-)2.4	(-)9.4	(-)19.5

(-) Denotes decrease

The Minister for Customs has stated that beer and spirits quotas for civilian consumption are unlikely to be altered.

/PART III....

EMPLOYMENT.

The estimated total number of non-rural wage and salary earners (excl. household domestics) employed in N.S.W. at the end of March, 1943, was 769,100. There was a net increase of 200 during the month. Males employed declined by 2,000 and females increased by 2,200.

Male employees of Government authorities declined by 500 but females employed by these authorities increased by 1,500. Privately employed females were 700 greater.

It follows from factory employment estimates given later that non-factory employment included in the table below moved as follows:-

NON-FACTORY EMPLOYMENT [⌘]

	<u>Males.</u> '000	<u>Females.</u> '000	<u>Total.</u> '000
March, 1942	334.4	139.8	474.2
July, 1942	320.1	140.7	460.8
February, 1943	310.5	145.5	456.0
March, 1943	307.3	146.1	453.4

⌘ Exclusive of rural employees and household domestics.

Since July, 1942 the number of additional male employees going to factories has been less than a third of the reduction in males employed elsewhere. The increase in females employed in factories was nearly double the increase in other female employment.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

ESTIMATED NON-RURAL WAGE & SALARY EARNERS EMPLOYED (EXCL. HOUSEHOLD DOMESTIC)
(Includes Civil Constructional Corps in N.S.W.)

End of Month.	MALES			FEMALES			TOTAL		
	Government (C'wealth, State & Local.)	Private Employers	Total	Government (C'wealth, State & Local.)	Private Employers	Total	Government (C'wealth, State & Local.)	Private Employers	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
1933-June	103.2	275.7	378.9	16.8	101.8	118.6	120.0	377.5	497.5
1939-July	136.5	399.1	535.6	19.4	141.3	160.7	155.9	540.4	696.3
1941-July	141.5	419.5	561.0	21.7	186.8	208.5	163.2	606.3	769.5
-Dec.	146.4	420.3	566.7	23.4	195.7	219.1	169.8	616.0	785.8
1942-Mar.	148.9	405.3	554.2	25.0	197.1	222.1	173.9	602.4	776.3
July	154.8	384.3	539.1	28.1	197.0	225.1	182.9	581.3	764.2
Sept.	153.3	381.9	535.2	30.1	196.9	227.0	183.4	578.8	762.2
Dec.	150.7	379.4	530.1	33.9	201.2	235.1	184.6	580.6	765.2
1943-Jan.	151.8	379.4	531.2	35.2	199.8	235.0	187.0	579.2	766.2
-Feb.	152.9	379.5	532.4	36.0	200.5	236.5	188.9	580.0	768.9
-Mar.	152.4	378.0	530.4	37.5	201.2	238.7	189.9	579.2	769.1

Excludes persons in military forces.

The trend of employment in N.S.W. in certain broad industrial classifications is shown in the table below. The numbers shown do not represent the total wage and salary earners employed in the industries. Factory employment is indicated below.

/Builders,....

Builders have been busy on Government contracts. Employment on transport services (mainly Government) continues to expand. Retail and wholesale trade suffered further losses of men and women employees in March, 1943. The decline of males employed in "other commerce, etc." was seasonal and occurred in wool and produce firms. There were very small increases in employment in some personal service and professional service occupations.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

EMPLOYMENT OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS AS RECORDED BY EMPLOYERS
ON PAY ROLL TAX RETURNS.^d
 (Thousands)

st Pay y in nth	Employees recorded by employers whose principal activity is:													
	Mining & Quarrying		Building & Constr- uction(a)		Transport (Excl. shipping)		Retail Trade		Wholesale Trade		Other Commerce & Finance(b)		Personal Service (Excl. household Domestics) (c)	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1-July	21.7	0.1	20.5	0.5	60.7	2.7	31.9	31.8	29.1	10.1	20.9	9.8	16.3	20.3
Nov.	21.7	0.2	19.3	0.5	61.9	3.0	32.1	33.8	29.3	11.1	21.6	10.5	16.7	21.5
Dec.	21.7	0.2	18.3	0.5	62.3	3.0	31.9	35.2	28.5	10.9	21.2	10.5	16.8	21.8
2-Jan.	21.3	0.2	19.0	0.5	62.3	3.1	30.3	32.7	28.2	11.0	20.4	10.8	16.2	21.6
Feb.	21.2	0.2	20.1	0.5	62.4	3.1	29.4	33.5	27.9	11.1	19.8	11.2	15.4	21.5
Mar.	21.2	0.2	19.9	0.5	62.3	3.3	28.5	33.1	27.6	11.0	19.3	11.3	15.1	21.5
July	21.2	0.2	17.2	0.5	62.4	3.5	24.9	32.1	24.9	11.1	17.3	11.7	13.4	21.5
Oct.	21.2	0.2	15.5	0.5	62.8	3.8	23.6	31.8	24.3	11.5	16.9	11.7	12.7	21.7
Dec.	20.7	0.2	15.4	0.5	62.4	4.3	24.6	32.9	24.6	11.4	16.3	11.7	12.7	21.6
3-Jan.	20.8	0.2	15.9	0.5	62.7	4.6	23.3	31.5	24.7	11.5	16.5	11.8	12.7	21.7
Feb.	20.5	0.2	17.1	0.5	62.9	4.7	23.0	30.9	24.8	11.6	16.5	11.9	12.7	21.7
Mar.	20.5	0.2	17.0	0.5	63.2	4.9	22.6	30.8	24.3	11.2	15.8	11.8	12.8	21.8

^d Pay-Roll Tax returns are submitted by all employers (except C/wealth Govt., Charities, etc.) whose pay-roll exceeds £20 per wk.

(a) Excl. large numbers employed on Construction by Govt. authorities.

(b) Incl. wool and produce brokers, banks, insurance and commerce n.e.i.

(c) Incl. hotels, restaurants, entertainment, professional and personal service.

Factory employment in N.S.W. in March, 1943 was estimated at 315,700 (incl. working proprietors). There was an increase during the month of 2,800 (males 1,200 and females 1,600). The movements in the various factory groups are shown in a later table.

During the period July, 1942 - March, 1943 the increase in the number of males employed in factories was small compared with the corresponding movement in 1941/42. On the other hand, the upward movement in females employed in factories has been faster in 1942/43.

The index of factory employment (not adjusted for seasonal variation or population increase) was 138 in March, 1943 on the basis 1938/39 average = 100.

FACTORY EMPLOYMENT - N.S.W.
 (Including Working Proprietors.)

	Average No. Employed, whole year.				Estimates ^m						
	1938/39	1939/40	1940/41	1941/42	July '42	Sept. '42	Oct. '42	Dec. '42	Jan. '43	Feb. '43	Mar. '43
					Thousands omitted.						
<u>MALES</u>	167.2	172.3	194.2	216.8	218.9	219.4	219.0	219.9	222.0	221.9	225.1
<u>FEMALES</u>	61.6	64.7	71.6	81.4	84.4	86.0	87.8	89.6	89.7	91.0	92.6
<u>TOTAL</u>	228.8	237.0	265.8	298.2	303.3	305.4	306.8	309.5	311.7	312.9	315.7
Index No. (1938/39=100)	100	104	116	130	133	133	134	135	136	137	138

^m Based on Pay-Roll Tax and Government factory returns. Subject to revision after annual factory census.

It is proposed to introduce female labour into some engineering trades hitherto reserved exclusively for males. To prevent displacement of men, females entering the skilled trades as "dilutees" must agree to abandon their employment if competent male tradesmen of the same classification become available. The Women's Employment Board has agreed to the females being paid full tradesmen's wages.

An analysis of trends in factory employment in the period June 1942 to March, 1943 is shown below. The table is derived from returns of Government owned factories and Pay-Roll Tax returns of private manufacturing businesses but the latter returns cover more than purely manufacturing activities, hence the figures below do not reflect actual employment in the statistical classes of factories shown.

The remarkable feature of the table below is the increase in female employment and its concentration in the metal industries. In all other groups together there was little net change in female employment - in food and drink factories there was a large increase and in clothing establishments a still greater decline. Male employment in factories increased less than female from June, 1942 to March, 1943 and the increase was in the two important groups metal working & food manufacture.

EMPLOYMENT (MONTHLY) IN CERTAIN FACTORY GROUPS, SO FAR AS RECORDED.

Derived From. 1. Govt. Factory Returns. & 2. Pay-Roll Tax Returns.

(Tax returns of employers whose principal activity is manufacturing.)

(Thousands).

Group.		June 1942	Sept. 1942	Nov. 1942	Dec. 1942	Jan. 1943	Feb. 1943	Mar. 1943
Founding, engineering, Vehicles, aircraft, etc.	M)	137.0	138.5	139.2	138.8	140.5	140.7	141.8
	F)	16.6	20.1	22.5	23.1	23.9	25.0	26.8
Textiles	M)	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.8	6.6	6.5
	F)	10.4	10.4	10.5	10.5	10.3	10.3	10.2
Clothing	M)	6.8	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.4
	F)	23.5	22.6	22.1	22.0	21.8	21.7	21.6
Food, Drink & Tobacco	M)	24.8	25.1	25.7	26.2	26.3	26.1	26.3
	F)	13.2	13.4	14.0	14.5	13.8	14.3	14.3
Woodworking & Furniture	M)	10.9	10.9	10.7	10.6	10.5	10.5	10.6
	F)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Paper, Printing, etc.	M)	10.4	10.0	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.8	9.9
	F)	6.6	6.8	7.2	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.9
TOTAL * (incl. other groups.)	M)	231.7	231.7	232.0	231.6	233.7	233.7	234.6
	F)	83.2	86.6	89.7	90.5	90.4	91.7	93.4

* Note:- The above figures represent only the trend of factory employment as they include a large number of employees not actually engaged in the factories.

MANPOWER NOTES. Casualties in the Australian Forces to the end of March, 1943 were:- Killed 10,253, wounded 24,303, prisoners or missing 32,635.

The Services require more men but 5,000 young men are to be released temporarily as required for seasonal rural work. The question of discharges to enable some men to resume full-time farming is being investigated.

Returns from hospitals in N.S.W. disclosed staff shortages of 534 general nurses and 109 obstetric nurses and 400 domestics. Nurses believed to be unoccupied or in other employment are being interviewed with a view to their transfer to hospitals. Many patients are awaiting admission to hospitals. The State Government intends to establish a Central Admission Depot for metropolitan public hospitals.

The Commonwealth Public Service is to recruit women for part-time work.

War factories coming into operation in the Sydney area require 7,500 men not liable for military services and they will have to come from less essential establishments. Retail trade will supply a quota but will also be called upon to supply many women, hundreds of whom are required for the same war factories.

The results of interviews of 2,310 women in the 21-25 age group were announced by the Deputy-Director of Manpower. Those who agreed to transfer immediately to war work numbered 252 and 224 agreed to enlist in the women's auxiliaries. A large proportion of the women were not available for transfer. The staffs of grocery shops will not be reduced further though women may replace men providing that at least one man is left in each shop.

The N.S.W. Police Force, much below pre-war strength and with added duties, is to be increased by 75 men.

Under National Security Regulations designed to reduce strikes, issued on 27th May, 1943, the Prime Minister is given power to make available for military or other national service persons in reserved occupations or "protected" employment who have caused strikes, lock-outs or stoppages. The onus of proving lawful excuse will rest upon the persons charged.

Civil Constructional Corps members suffering injuries in their service are to be compensated according to the terms of the N.S.W. Workers Compensation Act instead of the Commonwealth Act.

Canteens and shelter sheds for wharf workers are to be erected at main ports. The Federal Cabinet has provided £125,000.

TRANSPORT.

Railways. The results of Government railway operations in N.S.W. for the month of March, and the nine months July to March, of the last few financial years are summarised below. The working surplus of the railways at the end of March, 1943 was only £17,000 less than the charges for the year 1941/42 for interest, sinking fund etc.

The working surplus in any particular month - as March 1943 - may be low due to special charges, not wholly applicable to that individual month, being brought into the accounts.

The record number of passengers carried in 1941/42 - 219,000 - will be easily exceeded this year. Tonnage of freight carried so far exceeds 1941/42 by nearly 7%.

N.S.W. GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

Year.	Month of March.				Nine Months ended March.			
	Tonnage of Goods & Livestock	Gross Revenue :x:	Excess of Revenue over Working Expenses. /	Passenger Journeys.	Tonnage of Goods & Livestock	Gross Revenue	Excess of Revenue over Working Expenses. /	Passenger Journeys.
	'000	£000	£000	Million.	'000	£000	£000	Million
38/39	1,335	1,632	462	14.7	11,314	14,225	3,745	141
39/40	(a) 993	1,717	516	15.3	11,921	15,665	5,097	134
40/41	1,501	1,876	512	17.3	13,748	17,480	6,105	143
41/42	1,619	2,933	244	19.0	13,842	19,924	6,025	162
42/43	1,622	2,829	(-) 12	20.7	14,803	25,559	6,553	176

/ Exclusive of interest, sinking fund, exchange, etc. (£6,570,000 in 1941/42).

:x: Includes amounts not applicable to a particular month.

(-) Denotes deficiency.

(a) Coal strike began March, 1940.

The Silverton Tramway Company's service Broken Hill (N.S.W.) to Cockburn (S.A.) was temporarily suspended recently owing to an industrial dispute.

/Trams

TRAMS & 'BUSES. Passengers carried by Government Services in March, 1943 were 10% above March, 1942. In the first three-quarters of the financial year the overall increase on 1941/42 in passenger journeys was 4.4%. Working expenses have increased more than earnings during the last two years.

N.S.W. GOVERNMENT TRAMS & 'BUSES.

Sydney and Newcastle.

Year.	Month of March.				Nine Months ended March.			
	Earnings.	Working Expenditure. £	Excess of Revenue over Working Expenses. £	Passenger Journeys (a) Million	Earnings	Working Expenditure. £	Excess of Revenue over Working Expenses. £	Passenger Journeys (a) Million
1938/39	£000 382	£000 311	£000 71	33.0	£000 3,269	£000 2,769	£000 500	280
1939/40	405	335	70	34.8	3,377	2,819	558	286
1940/41	417	350	67	35.1	3,557	2,863	694	302
1941/42	457	389	68	40.4	4,074	3,403	671	361
1942/43	497	412	85	44.0	4,195	3,591	604	377

£ Exclusive of interest, S.fund, exchange and current depreciation (£605,000 in 1941/42).

MOTOR VEHICLES. Registered motor vehicles in N. S.W. at the end of April, 1943, were 270,108, an increase of about 500 over the previous month. The increase was in cars (337) and lorries (191).

<u>No. on Register</u> <u>N.S.W. (a)</u>	<u>August.</u> <u>1939.</u>	<u>December.</u> <u>1941</u>	<u>April.</u> <u>1942</u>	<u>March.</u> <u>1943</u>	<u>April</u> <u>1943.</u>
Motor Cars '000	216.6	188.6	171.4	172.8	173.1
Lorries '000	77.6	75.5	72.2	71.4	71.6
Trailers & Tractors(b)'000	7.6	9.0	8.2	8.2	8.2
Motor Cycles '000	24.0	18.9	15.7	14.4	14.3
TOTAL (incl other)'000	329.2	295.2	270.7	269.6	270.1

(a) Excl. military vehicles.

(b) Excl. tractors used on farms only.

The Liquid Fuel Control Board has issued an order that fuel drums must be returned to depots within seven days of the contents falling to ten gallons.

Although there are 850 licenses for charcoal burning current in N.S.W. only 530 units are in operation. The State Government has 708 kilns but only 485 men, including 303 inefficient aliens, to operate them. Production in this State is about 4,000 tons of charcoal monthly but only about 1,700 tons are marketed here. i.e. less than three-quarters of estimated requirements.

Deliveries of wood & coal fuel are difficult to obtain.

Other Transport. An airgraph letter service from Britain to Australia has begun. Services to and from other countries will follow, commencement of outward services being dependent upon receipt of supplies of photographic material. One pound weight

/of film.....

of film equals about 4,500 negatives of letters.

Australian shipbuilding may be concentrated on the smaller type of vessels needed for interstate trade. Docking facilities are to be extended in Melbourne when manpower and materials become available. The Government's defence plans envisage dry docks in each State.

BUILDING.

Construction on Government account was responsible for a much higher estimated value of buildings commenced in the Metropolitan area in April than in earlier months of 1943. Most of the new buildings are located in the suburbs.

A Federal Rents Commissioner is to be appointed to deal with rents of rooms and houses.

BUILDINGS COMMENCED - METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD AREA.

Period	Dwelling Houses (excl. Flats)	VALUE OF BUILDINGS COMMENCED.				T O T A L		
		Dwelling Houses	Flats	Business Premises (a)	Miscellaneous.	City.	Suburb.	Total
	No.	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
1939	7,341	5,967	1,855	3,130	955	1,300	10,107	11,907
1940	7,161	6,157	2,341	2,795	1,581	1,545	11,329	12,874
1941	7,177	6,556	2,450	1,738	1,074	706	11,112	11,818
1942	639	653	2,381	2,350	900	354	3,630	3,984
1-Apr.	533	479	202	130	27	43	795	838
2-Apr.	18	14	-	139	27	38	42	180
July	22	32	1	200	50	21	262	283
Dec.	20	8	-	53	261	18	304	322
1943								
3-Jan.	91	31	-	71	80	26	156	182
Feb.	18	9	-	123	33	55	110	165
Mar.	20	9	-	136	54	-	199	199
Apr.	28	11	-	80	455	14	532	546

(a) Includes factories.